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ALFONSIN TEARS MUSCLE, POSTPONES VISIT

PY230301 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2322 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Sep (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin tore a muscle in one of his legs while playing tennis at the Olivos residence at noon on 20 September. Thus, he will have to restrict his movements for some days.

Presidential spokesman Jose Ignacio Lopez has said for this reason Alfonsin decided to postpone a visit he was to make on 23 September to the Domecq Garcia shipyard in the southern sector of the Buenos Aires port. However, the spokesman said the president will follow his usual agenda at Government House.

The president tore a gemellus muscle while playing tennis with his son Ricardo and other relatives on the residence's tennis court.

Lopez said the problem will not affect the president's daily routine, although it will restrict his movements for some days. The presidential spokesman told the journalists at Government House that the president walks with the help of a cane.

FOREIGN MINISTER ADDRESSES UNITED NATIONS

PY230227 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2156 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Quotations marks as received]

[Text] Buenos Aires, 22 Sep (NA) -- In a speech delivered at the 41st United Naitons General Assembly, Argentine Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today reiterated the Argentine claims for sovereignty over the Malvinas Islands and the South Atlantic archipelagos. He also emphatically condemned the economic world order, which has impoverished debtor countries even further, and warned that "the danger of war hangs over Latin America."

"The Central American crisis and conflict have worsened. To achieve peace in Central America is not only a humanitarian objective, but a must for all Latin Americans," he stressed.

As for the Argentine claim of sovereignty over the Malvinas, Georgias, and South Sandwich Islands, Caputo said "it is a matter of permanent concern" for the Argentine Government. He condemned "the currently intransigent position of Great Britain," which has refused to resume direct diplomatic negotiations. He added that the British attitude "has done nothing but extend a situation that is both unacceptable and detrimental," because, among other things, "it has led to an exaggerated British military presence in the South Atlantic," thus "seriously jeopardizing Argentina and the entire region."

"The strategic airport on the island and the extraordinary naval force have jeopardized stability in an area that is part of the Latin American denuclearized zone. The Malvinas Islands have thus become strategically important in the East-West conflict," he stressed.

The foreign minister also strongly condemned "the illegal and arbitrary 'protection zone' that the United Kingdom imposed around the Malvinas islands," explaining that this "has prevented Argentina from carrying out legal and peaceful activities in an area within its own territorial waters and airspace." This "has led to the uncontrolled exploitation of the fishing resources of the region," he said.

In his speech, the text of which was released at the San Martin Palace this afternoon, Caputo strongly criticized the "unsoundness" of the economic system, which has drained the developing countries resources, hindering their chances to meet their external obligations and turning Latin America "into an exporter of a net capital of more than $100 billion." Caputo also condemned the serious conflicts under way in several parts of the world, emphasizing the Central American crisis.

"The Central American conflict and crisis have worsened. To achieve peace in Central America is not only a humanitarian objective but a must for all Latin Americans," he said. He launched an appeal "to find a new method that may revive hope" for the region, adding that this method "should not focus on the formalities of a treaty, because, first and foremost, it is essential that all the parties show their willingness to achieve peace."

After recalling the objectives of the "Caraballeda Message" signed by the Contadora Group and the Contadora Support Group, Caputo maintained that "while none of those objectives has been fully achieved, some of them have been increasingly disregarded in recent weeks." "There seems to be increasing confusion" on how to accomplish those objectives of peace, he noted. "If we want peace, the Central American nations must make an enormous effort for their internal and external freedom, that is, for their democracy and their independence," he stressed. He also warned that "if Latin America refuses to deal with the conflict, the conflict will win. If Central America does not destroy the cause of the conflict, the conflict will destroy it."

Caputo also called upon those countries "with interests and ties in the region" to refrain from [passage indistinct] because the peace and security of those nations also relies on a proper solution to the Central American conflict."

In his speech, Caputo also referred to the nuclear issue, stressing that the Argentine Government considers disarmament "a top priority issue." He said that in 1984, his government "demanded the urgent implementation of a global disarmament process. Nevertheless, none of the negative situations which we mentioned on that occasion has improved. On the contrary, they seem to have worsened."

Such "negative situations" are the proliferation of strategic arms over the earth and in space (proliferacion vertical), the continuation of nuclear tests, the "delusive" guarantees offered to nonnuclear states, and the lack of measures to prevent nuclear war. In this regard, Caputo recommended a series of measures, which are included in the proposal of the Group of 6, such as "the construction of temporary control stations in testing areas, control of large chemical explosions, and meetings between experts of the Group of 6 and Soviet and U.S. specialists.

The Argentine foreign minister also condemned the "unsoundness" of the world economic order, adding that it reflects "the gap between an increasingly powerful center and a growingly impoverished periphery."

"'Unsound logic' has led us to these absurd crossroads in which our efforts to meet our debt obligations clashes with the discriminatory and increasingly protectionist practices of our creditors," he added. He explained that because of this situation, "in the past 5 years, the living standard of our region has dropped to the levels prevailing a decade ago. In addition, over the past 4 years, the servicing of the debt has turned our Latin America into an exporter of a net capital of more than $100 billion."

He concluded by reiterating: "It is necessary to restore common sense to guarantee our system of peaceful coexistence. For over 40 years, this has been the key objective of our organization."

BRIEFS

DEPUTY DIES SUDDENLY -- Buenos Aires, 12 Sep (NADYN) -- Congressional proceedings on Wednesday were taken up by multipartisan tributes to the memory of deputy Osvaldo Ruiz (Justicialist-Santa Fe), who died suddenly of a heart attack the same morning at the age of 55. He will be replaced by Horacio Bonifaci. [Text] [Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 12 Sep 86 p 9 PY]

PUBLIC ENTERPRISES CONTROL SECRETARY -- Buenos Aires, 16 Sep (TELAM) -- President Raul Alfonsin, this afternoon swore in Jaime Alberto Sujoi as new secretary for the Control of Public Enterprises. Sujoi is replacing Marcelo Kieguel, who has been appointed as vice president of the Central Bank. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2149 GMT 16 Sep 86 PY]

NEW FOREIGN MINISTRY AUTHORITY -- Buenos Aires, 29 Aug (TELAM) -- Foreign Minister Dante Caputo today swore in Ambassador Juan Carlos Beltramino as new special affairs under secretary during a ceremony in the San Martin Palace. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1554 GMT 29 Aug 86 PY]

RADIO STATION LICENSES RENEWED -- Buenos Aires, 27 Aug (TELAM) -- The Executive Branch has issued decree No 1503 by which it renews the operating licenses for a 15-year period of Radio Stations L.U. 13, RAdio Necochea; L.T. 7 Radio Provincia de Corrients; and L.V. 23 Radio Atuel of Mendoza. [Excerpt] [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1647 GMT 27 Aug 86 PY]

FAVORABLE TRADE BALANCE -- Buenos Aires, 13 Aug (NA) -- The National Statistics Institute has reported that the trade balance during the first quarter of this year was favorable by $592 million. During this period, exports reached $1.513 billion and imports $921 billion. [Summary] [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2324 GMT 13 Aug 86 PY]

LSD SHIPMENT SEIZED -- Buenos Aires, 29 Aug (AFP) -- The Federal Police have seized the largest shipment of LSD of the year, a spokesman from this institution reported. He said that 2,000 capsules worth $45,000 were seized in a spectacular operation in this capital during which two people were arrested. Their names were not revealed by the police. The spokesman said that the drug came clandestinely from Norway. [Summary] [Paris AFP in Spanish 2309 GMT 29 Aug 86 PY]

U.S. SAID TO OVERRIDE GOVERNMENT DECISIONS

PY222156 Paris AFP in Spanish 1432 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] La Paz, 22 Sep (AFP) -- Juan Carlos Duran, minister secretary general of the Presidency, today condemned parties of the left that use national sovereignty as a pretext to condemn the presence of U.S. troops. These troops arrived on 15 July 1985, to help with the antidrug campaign.

Duran Saucedo stated that the antidrug campaign has awakened interest throughout the world, and that Bolivia lacks the means to face this problem alone.

However, Alfonso Alem Rojo, leader of the Free Bolivia Movement [MBL], stated that decisions of the government of Victor Paz Estenssoro are continuously overridden by decisions adopted by the Reagan administration.

Thus, for instance, he stated, while Bolivian Foreign Minister Guillermo Bedregal Gutierrez said that U.S. troops would extend their stay until 15 November 1986, Chapman B. Cox, assistant to the U.S. Defense Secretary, stated that the U.S. troops will remain in Bolivia indefinitely.

Alem Rojo added that the antidrug campaign is an excuse used by Washington to establish a permanent military base in Bolivia.

MINISTER SAYS COMPUTER TALKS WITH U.S. 'CLOSED'

PY230208 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0034 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] Brasilia, 22 Sep (EFE) -- Brazil regards as closed the negotiations it has been holding since July with the United States on the Brazilian computer market law, Acting Foreign Minister Paulo Tarso Flecha da Lima announced here today. Flecha told EFE that the decision was made at a meeting held last Saturday in Rio de Janeiro with Clayton Yeutter, President Reagan's adviser for foreign trade.

After noting that the situation was already fully evaluated in the three meetings held from July to September in Paris and in Rio de Janeiro, Flecha said: "I do not see any reason to hold another meeting."

The United States has threatened to impose commercial sanctions on Brazil because of the enforcement of a computer market reserve law which it regards as "harmful to U.S. interests."

"We have reiterated that our position has not changed, that this law cannot be negotiated, and that it is not detrimental to foreign investment," Flecha da Lima said.

Commenting on the latest meeting he held with the U.S. adviser, Flecha da Lima said the meeting was held at the request of the U.S. adviser and that "the possibility of sanctions was not discussed."

Flecha da Lima said President Sarney's instructions have been that talks be held without yielding to pressures of sanctions or reprisals.

Flecha da Lima declined to comment on the Brazilian Government's possible reaction if the United States imposes sanctions on Brazil. "We will talk about them after they are imposed," he said.

However, Science and Technology Minister Renato Archer reported on 20 September that following President Sarney's instruction, he went to Germany and Japan to seek agreements for the purchase of computer components totalling $600 million, which would no longer be purchased from the United States if the sanctions are imposed.

ISRAEL'S SHARON PROPOSES ANTITERRORIST FRONT

PA230247 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0116 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] Bogota, 22 Sep (EFE) -- Israeli Industry and Commerce Minister Ariel Sharon, who is on an official visit to Colombia, revealed that there are links between guerrilla members in the Andean country and Palestinian terrorists, and proposed the creation of a "common front" against world terrorism.

The former Israeli defense minister proposed the creation of a "common front" against world terrorism with the United States as leader. Sharon revealed that when Israel invaded Lebanon during the so-called "Peace for Galilee Operation" in 1982, with the intention of expelling the PLO, they found "Colombian guerrilla members linked with the Palestinian terrorists' activities." Referring to a common world front against terrorism, Sharon said that free countries must enforce "political and economic sanctions, which are frequently more effective than military sanctions."

Minister Sharon said: "Israel proposes to the free world, particularly the United States, to lead a common front against the dangers of international terrorism." The Israeli minister is currently visiting Colombia to strengthen commercial links and technological and cultural exchange between the two countries; he met with President Virgilio Barco Vargas and several of his Cabinet ministers.

BRIEFS

NEWSPAPER STOPS PUBLICATION -- Bogota, 20 Sep (DPA) -- The Colombian daily LA TIERRA edited in the city of Tunja, the capital of Boyaca Department in the country's central region, will circulate for the last time today due to economic problems, its director, Antonio Martinez Martin, has reported. LA TIERRA, which last week celebrated its second anniversary, was characterized by not having an editorial and for publishing articles from writers of different tendencies. [Excerpt] [Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1532 GMT 20 Sep 86 PA]

PUBLIC DEBT REPORTED -- The public debt was estimated at 1,030.262 billion pesos at the end of July 1986, 6.9 percent higher than the total on 31 December 1985, and equal to almost 1.4 percent of the national budget. The net increase of the debt from July 1986 was 280.528 billion pesos. The domestic public debt as of 31 July 1986 was estimated at 441.359 billion pesos. Compared with the total on 31 December, it decreased 3 percent. However, it increased 24.2 percent over a 1-year period. The domestic public debt's percentage in the total public debt decreased from 47.4 percent to 42.8 percent. The foreign public debt was estimated at 588.903 billion pesos, 15.8 percent higher than the total in December 1985, and 49.4 percent higher than the total in July 1985. It accounted for 52.6 percent of the total public debt in June 1985, and for 57.2 percent of the public debt in July 1986. [Excerpts] [Bogota EL SIGLO in Spanish 12 Sep 86 p 9 PA]

WORLD BANK TO PROVIDE $3.4 BILLION CREDIT

FL200128 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2340 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Paris, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- World Bank President Barber B. Conable has confirmed that this international finanical organization will provide Mexico with a $3.4 billion credit in the next 18 months.

Credits amounting to $900 million will be made available to Mexico this year and another $500 will be provided in 1987 as part of the genral finance agreement, which also includes the IMF, commercial banks, and official agencies of various countries.

In an interview published today by the French daily LE FIGARO, the World Bank director indicates that Mexico's financial needs surpass the capabilities multilateral agencies, thus, commercial banks need to commit themselves considerably. [passage omitted]

SECRETARIAT EXAMINES FOREIGN DEBT RESPONSIBILITY

FL221254 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2322 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Text] Mexico City, 20 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- The problem of the Latin American countries' foreign debt will only have a solution through the mutually responsible participation of governments, financial institutions, and creditor banks. Mexico, the Finance and Public Credit Secretariat noted, is doing what it can by applying reforms in its economic structure to avoid the recurrence of the crisis, as well as to avoid affects caused by fluctuations of the international price of oil and of other raw materials.

Through mutual responsibility, the ground for the negotiating platform in three phases -- growing between 3 and 4 percent in 1987 and 1988 -- is prepared in a progressive manner.

Likewise, based on the principle that if the price of oil continues at the $12 per barrel level, as it is today, the drop in foreign currency should be satisfied by foreign requirements of around $12 billion.

The third phase of the negotiation with creditor banks, perhaps the most difficult, is estimated will be concluded satisfactorily for Mexico very soon. It is believed that this is a difficult phase because a balance conditions for new credits. Mexican finanical experts estimate that the greater the cutback of the services of the old debt, the fewer the possibilities of obtaining future credits for the public and private sectors.

There is also the situation that creditor banks are facing different situations -- some countries and banks do not want to talk about fresh funds, they want to capitalize, and others do not want to hear the world capitalization.

Faced with this difficult panorama, the federal government has presented an aggressive menu and negotiating platform which, perhaps, will be formalized next October.

PETRICIOLI ON FOREIGN DEBT; DEPARTS FOR JAPAN

FL191640 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0416 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Mexico, 19 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Gustavo Petricioli, Mexican finance and public credit secretary, has said that Mexico requires a volume of foreign resources to be determined by oil prices in order to achieve an estimated economic growth between 3 and 4 percent annually beginning in 1987. Interviewed before departing for Tokyo, Japan, Petricioli said to achieve this, it is indispensible that the first step be the support of the IMF and World Bank. He said that IMF support was achieved last July and World Bank support 1 week later which authorized $2.7 billion for Mexico, resources that facilitate the country's foreign trade structure, industrial reconversion, and other areas.

The second step, said the finance secretary, was achieved at the end of August when a contingent loan of $1.1 billion was approved by 10 of the most important world banks, resources that are indispensible while negotiations continue.

The third step, said Petricioli, is the process of restructuring Mexico's foreign debt and obtaining additional resources from international private banks, which is one of the purposes of his trip to Tokyo.

In reference to the agreement reached with the industrialized countries of the Paris Club, he said this represents an important step in restructuring our foreign debt and will allow Mexico a greater payment capacity without increasing its indebtedness, which considerably diminishes foreign pressure.

By increasing the length of time to meet financial commitments, Petricioli added, in addition to reaching an agreement with creditors on better payment terms, Mexico will now not have to cover approximately $1.8 billion, which, as a result, will strengthen our monetary reserves and allow the lines of credit to continue, which are required by the public and private sectors.

To Request $1 Billion Loan

FL201600 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1526 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Excerpt] Gustavo Petricioli, Mexican finance and public credit secretary, arrived in Tokyo today for a 5-day visit during which he will ask Japan for a $1 billion loan to be used for 3 large development projects.

Petricioli is accompanied by a high-level delegation including the secretaries of programming and budget [Carlos Salinas De Gortari] and energy, mines, and parastate industry [Alfredo Del Mazo Gonzalez]. Representatives from SOMEX [Mexican Association for Industrial Credit] and Nafinsa [National Finance Bank, Inc] will also ask the Japanese Government for support in restructuring Mexico's foreign debt.

It was reported here that the loan requested by Petricioili has been approved by the Japanese Government even though the negotiations have been extended. It is expected that the loan will be finalized at the end of November when Mexican President Miguel De la Madrid visits Japan. [passage omitted]

Negotiations To Begin

FL221056 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2209 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Mexico City, 21 Sep (NOTIMEX) -- Mexico will negotiate with the Japanese banking industry a $1 billion loan on a 10 year term, with 2 years of grace period, based on the (?libor) interest rate, Nakohiro Ikeda, representative of the Yokohama Nippon Bank has announced. He added that during the visit to Japan by Finance and Public Credit Secretary Gustavo Petricioli, the new loan will be negotiated.

He added that out of that amount $500,000 will be channeled to the construction of a gas pipeline from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific ocean through the Campeche-Salina Cruz route, $250,000 will be spent in the second phase of the Lazaro Cardenas steelworking complex, and the other $250,000 will be used in programs aimed at developing exports.

Likewise, he indicated that Petricioli will finalize the details and possible agenda of President Miguel De la Madrid's upcoming visit to Japan. Nakohiro Ikeda said the loan will be made in dollars or yen depending on the exchange rate of the two currencies at the time the negotiations are completed.

DEFENSE SECRETARY ON ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN RESULTS

PA191453 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] National Defense Secretary General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui today informed President Miguel De la Madrid about the results of the ongoing antidrug campaign.

Gen Arevalo Gardoqui said that from 4 August to the present, 274 hectares of poppies equivalent to 5,483 kg of opium paste--and 2,654 hectares of marijuana--equivalent to 2,123 tons of marijuana--have been destroyed. In addition, 11 clandestine airstrips and 5 clandestine camps were discovered during the same period.

Gen Arevalo Gardoqui said that 482 Mexicans and 8 foreigners have been arrested as presumed drug traffickers.

He added that 987 kilograms of packaged marijuana, 105 kg of poppy and marijuana seeds, and 4,700 narcotic pills were confiscated.

MOVEMENT ATTEMPTS TO 'DEMOCRATIZE' PRI

PA230207 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 17 Sep 86 p 4

[Article by Heberto Castillo: "Unrest Within the PRI"]

[Excerpts] In recent weeks, a line of thinking advocating the democratization of the official party has developed within the PRI. The background of those who seem to belong to this line of thinking lead one to think that they must feel concerned about the course which the economic politics have been taking, as it is at odds with the postulates of the revolution.

Porfiro Munoz Ledo, Cuahtemoc Cardenas, Rodolfo Gonzalez Guevara, Gonzalo Martinez Corbala, Leonel Duran, and Cesar Buenrostro, politicians with a long PRI history, have been the outstanding exponents of this current line of thinking. Clearly, admirers of [former Mexican President] Lazaro Cardenas make up the majority, leading one to hope that in addition to their concern that democracy prevail within the PRI, they will seek to sail the ship of state on the course drawn by the man from Jiquilpan. [passage omitted]

Obviously, the PRI majority is not going to relinquish what they have. For that reason, they do not dare to think on their own, and are content with unconditionally following the orders from the shepherd of the flock. This is what happens in the Chamber of Deputies.

However, there are hints that many PRI militants are paying attention to the actions by members of the renovating tendency which is apparently taking shape there. Outside the PRI, there are many Mexicans still skeptical but are, nevertheless, showing some sympathy for any action that may tend to revitalize democratic struggle in Mexico. [passage omitted]

Perhaps, those advocating democratizing the PRI will give up after receiving the first blows from the PRI leadership. Perhaps, things will not come to blows, or perhaps some will resist the blows and decide national sovereignty comes before party discipline, forcing them to be the accomplices to the surrendering of the nation to foreigners.

We will pay close attention to the written and responsible manifestations of those who wish to end their right to freely voice their views within the PRI. Some text should come out soon drawing the line, establishing if those PRI members are only seeking political positions for the next "big" one, or if they truly want to strive for a better Mexico.

In order to gain the trust of many, they will have to decide what sort of country they want to build, what sort of national sovereignty they seek, who is promoting this movement, and how far they are prepared to go.

Depending on a succint definition, the left may concur with them.

We will pay close attention.

BRIEFS

PEMEX REPORTS ON REVENUES -- Pemex has issued a communique reporting that in 1985 its revenues rose by $15.5 billion, which was nine percent below last year's figure. It also noted that only 12 percent of the foreign currency revenues was spent to cover operational costs or investments, 18 percent was used to cover its debts, and the remaining 70 percent went to nonoil sectors that utilize revenues in their activity. [Summary] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 12 Sep 86 PA]

MARIJUANA, POPPY PLANTS -- More than 70 hectares of marijuana and poppy have been fumigated and destroyed by members of the Army and of the Federal Judicial Police in the past 5 days. The attorney general's office reported yesterday that in the town of Soyatal in Tapalcatepec municipality, 23 hectares of marijuana were found hidden among corn and plantain crops, which were later destroyed with herbicide sprayed by four helicopters. The Federal Judicial Police have reported that the states where more poppy and marijuana plantations have been found are Michoacan, Sinaloa, and Chiapas. [Text] [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 17 Sep p 12 PA]

GUATEMALA

CEREZO DISCUSSES UPCOMING U.S., EUROPE TOURS

PA230418 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0050 GMT 23 Sep 86

[Text] The president of the Republic stated today that, as a result of his tour through Europe, his government will get a donation of 70 million marks from the FRG, plus other millions through a line of credit that will be established with Guatemala. Referring to donations and loans, the president of the Republic today said that each of the countries included in his official schedule will confirm their cooperation with Guatemala through donations and credits to finance several projects according to the government program.

President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo told news media today that his visit to the United States is not official, so it does not include an interview with President Ronald Reagan. The Guatemalan president confirmed his participation in the UN General Assembly, where he will deliver a special speech outlining the Guatemalan Government's general policies, which are characteristic of a Christian Democratic regime. Since he will not be on an official visit, he will not meet with President Reagan, the Guatemalan president stated.

Ambassador Fernando Andrade Diaz-Duran's case can be considered a transfer because he has been our country's diplomatic representative at the OAS, President Vinicio Cerezo said today. He added that the appointment is not a surprise, and it has not been made hastily.

President Vinicio Cerezo Arevalo today talked again about his trip to Europe, during which he expects to obtain the EEC nations' cooperation. The fact that the president will travel with an official 16-member delegation has been discussed and criticized and even censured, Vinicio Cerezo said. However, the Guatemalan president thinks it is not in our best interest to go looking like beggars.

ARMY ISSUES 'DECLARATION' ON SUPPORT GROUP

PA191514 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 18 Sep 86 pp 8, 32

["Declaration" issued by the Guatemalan Army in Guatemala City -- dated 17 September]

[Text] In a firm tone, with a calm attitude, and with the legitimate right to defend itself, the Guatemalan Army feels compelled to formally and categorically express its position on an evil plot of harassment and provocation the so-called Mutual Support Group, GAM, has orchestrated, making use of every means and opportunity within its reach, in an open act of harassment against the dignity, security, and prestige of the military.

The most recent example of the GAM attitude became evident on 15 September during the festivities to commemorate the national holidays. That day, the GAM and its followers engaged in reckless actions that involved insulting and harassing members of the troops participating in the parades and civic ceremonies. These were actions that the military units knew how to shun intelligently and carefully, thus avoiding the confrontation sought by the GAM. Specifically, when the parade reached the municipal palace, GAM members, obeying the slogans and speeches pronounced by their leader, Nineth Montenegro de Garcia, violently forced themselves into the area behind the Honor Guard unit.

This action forced the National Police School unit, standing directly behind the Honor Guard, to yield space to avoid even greater confusion.

Garcia's fiery speech urged her followers -- minors were strategically included -- to shout brazen and violent insults at the soldiers. This was an attempt to provoke the soldiers in order to profit from acts of repression the Army cautiously and stoically avoided. Inasmuch as the GAM attacks grew worse, the officer in charge ordered the troops to march double time, in this way leaving the unjustified assailants behind.

This is not just an accusation that the Guatemalan Army has been forced to make because of the systematic harassment and dark campaign launched by the GAM. Garcia's arrogant attitude and insolent remarks against the honor and prestige of the Army are well-known to the public. However, what is particularly dangerous is the level of the preposterous and rash GAM provocation. The organization's slanderous remarks go beyond the use of freedom and tolerance in public expression, and fall within the category of a crime. These remarks are open to further judgment by higher echelons because they denigrate and slander, and because they lack a legal basis.

The GAM action does not only show a lack of culture, or not only a case of insolence, because GAM took advantage of a climate of civic and patriotic fervor that is the framework of the 15 September celebration. It did not use this occasion to honor and praise the fatherland, but to spoil it by showing disrespect for the holiday and the solemnity of related ceremonies, thus hurting the fatherland.

Neither rudeness, arrogance, nor even the best reason are sufficient to rave against the highest national officials. This was the case with the farfetched remarks of the GAM about the president of the Republic and the general commander of the Army. It was also the case in the attempt to provoke soldiers with gestures, insults, and physical attacks in a search for heroes and martyrs -- a technique used by hidden strategists of communism.

In sum, the Army has remained calm; the GAM wants to interpret this as an incredible passiveness. The Army has been directly insulted by word and deed. However, its conduct has remained above reproach.

We infer that the GAM has lost its legal battle and is also losing its publicity campaign. Therefore, in an effort to promote its already worn-out image, it is seeking spectacular actions to renew the movement, a movement that is no longer humanitarian because it has become an instrument to sow discord and a lack of unity among Guatemalans, at the advice of GAM's foreign creators.

On this occasion, the Guatemalan Army cannot ignore the insidious nature and cruelty of the GAM maneuvers. The GAM is anxious to carry out its foreign instructions aimed at harming Guatemala's democratic image through the well-known trick of discrediting its institutions and creating the conditions that could make a martyr out of Garcia. The goal of this plan is to blame the Army or the country's authorities in this now uncovered plot. If the GAM president or any GAM follower has an accident, it will be a preplanned act of their puppeteers who came up with this Machiavellian plan. Let us hope that Garcia and her followers channel their efforts through the civilized, respectful, and reasonable path of the Republic's laws.

Therefore, before the Guatemalan people and the international public, the Army makes Nineth Montenegro de Garcia and those supporting her responsible for any eventuality that could result from her intransigence and stubbornness.

Guatemala, 17 September 1986.

MINISTER CLAIMS GUERRILLAS' ACTIONS DECREASING

PA230151 Guatemala City EL GRAFICO in Spanish 22 Sep 86 p 1

[Text] Guatemalan Defense Minister Brigadier General Jaime Hernandez has said that subversive activities have remained "normal" for about 3 months because the number of actions has not increased. He also said that actually the frequency of such actions is now somewhat lower in Peten Department.

The minister feels the subversives are in the process of revising their strategy, since no important actions have occurred in this department.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT AZCONA HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE

PA201328 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1735 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Press conference by Honduran President Jose Azcona with unidentified questioners at the Government Palace in Tegucigalpa; no date given -- recorded, broadcast in progress]

[Text] [Azcona] ...the Honduran people read that we were going to establish diplomatic relations. Honduras has always maintained diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia.

[Question] What about the rest of the [words indistinct]?

[Azcona] We have with Poland, the GDR, and other countries. However, we are not establishing diplomatic relations with Czechoslovakia because we have maintained uninterrupted relations, and they have had an ambassador accredited to Honduras for the last 20 years.

[Question] Mr President, what has the foreign minister reported concerning this tour through Europe, during which he engaged in state affairs?

[Azcona] Well, we have talked very little, but he feels very optimistic concerning our position at the International Court of Justice at The Hague and Honduras' prestige in all the countries he visited. He will give me a written report on the matter today.

[Question] Mr President, the Confederation of Honduran Workers [CTH] [words indistinct] requested that the foreign troops withdraw from our country; it likewise demanded that your government reorganize its cabinet.

[Azcona] Look, I do not wish to discuss the treaty that exists between the United States and Honduras. The only one authorized to reject or modify the treaty is our National Congress, so they should ask the National Congress to do that.

[Question] Mr President...

[Azcona, interrupting] The cabinet's reoganization is a decision that can only be adopted by the president of Honduras, and I will do whatever I consider convenient -- no matter who protests.

I have said this many times: The president of the Republic knows which ministers are qualified for the job, and the president of the Republic knows which minister is really working as he should. Therefore, the president of the Republic will decide whether changes will be made or not. I could not care less if anyone asks me to do this or not; I will do whatever I consider convenient for the state's affairs.

[Question indistinct]

[Azcona] I have already said that I have no complaints; we are evaluating and analyzing everything based on our experience. I will admonish them whenver they fail to fulfill their duties or fail in any sense. That is why we maintain a constant communication with them.

[Question] Mr President, do you accept suggestions from [former Honduran President Roberto] Suazo Cordova?

[Azcona] I may accept suggestions from any sector concerning any government matter. I am open-minded, but I will not accept impositions.

[Question] Mr President, a foreign television channel, namely SIN [Spanish International Network], reported, through a local television channel, that contras are being trained in Honduras, even though you do not like to refer to this topic.

[Azcona] Well, I have explained that more than enough. I will not refer to this again.

[Question] Mr President, what about the corruption at the National Port enterprise [ENP]?

[Azcona] There has been absolutely no corruption at the ENP during this administration; the corruption existed in previous administrations. Someone is trying to change the situation. The loans that were given to the legal adviser have been a standard procedure at the ENP for many years; loans have been given to all the employees, according to their salary. That particular loan has almost been paid in full; more than 80 percent of the loan has already been paid. The loan was given according to the resolution adopted during a directorate board meeting, so there is no corruption. The corruption that has been reported is an old matter. Engineer Craniotis was sent to restore some order in the ENP.

[Question] Is there...

[Azcona, interrupting] The only complaint we have heard is from the union, which states that a lot of people have been hired due to political recommendations, and we are already investigating the matter. However, the 25,000 lempiras loan given to the legal adviser does not imply corruption. The manager approved it according to a directorate board resolution, just like most of the companies authorize loans for their employees in case of an emergency.

He had to take his son to the United States for an emergency operation and the resolution was adopted by an ENP directorate board meeting. He had nothing to do with this decision and neither did the current directorate board. He received this benefit as an employee, as anyone of you can receive the benefits granted by the companies for which you work. His only obligation is to pay, and he is paying the debt.

[Question] Mr President, I would like to refer again to Foreign Ministry matters. Is your administrtion prepared to do some work at the gulf... [corrects himself] Goascoran River, which has changed course due to recent floods and some of our territory is on the Salvadoran side now?

[Azcona] Well, I have heard about this [words indistinct] and we will meet with foreign ministry and SECOPT [Ministry of Communications, Public Works, and Transportation] to see what can be done -- some kind of physical work -- so that the river does not swerve into Honduran territory.

[Question] [Words indistinct] power to the attorney general so that he may take the appropriate actions concerning the CONADI [National Corporation for Investments] because, according to him, the report has no legal value?

[Azcona] I cannot give the attorney general any power because he is appointed...[corrects himself] elected by the National Congress, not the president of the Republic. He may act freely according to the guidelines established by the Constitution of the Republic and other laws. I cannot (?interfere) in this.

[Question] Mr President, the attorney general also said that he will not be able to continue his investigations because he lacks the proper technical and financial support?

[Azcona] He has sent me a letter and we will try to improve his budget, which is something quite different. However, the attorney general's duties are stated in the Constitution and his appointment is decided by the National Congress -- not the executive branch.

[Question] [Words indistinct] would like to insist on another topic. Are you sure that the foreign minister left all the necessary documents at The Hague to counter the Nicaraguan lawsuit?

[Azcona] I trust the foreign minister and his advisers and the ambassador we have appointed to The Hague. We sent him because he is an expert on the dispute with El Salvador, above all. However, he is also a qualified professional, and I believe he will carry out his role as Honduras' representative at the International Court of Justice at The Hague very well.

[Question] Mr President, the Armed Forces Joint Chiefs of Staff met with you and certain top-level military officers yesterday. We understand that you analyzed the Armed Forces budget. What other topics did you analyze?

[Azcona] We talked about the budget and other topics. There is no problem.

[Question indistinct]

[Azcona] What?

[Question] Will the Armed Forces' budget remain the same or [words indistinct]?

[Azcona] We are studying the Armed Forces' budget.

[Question] Can you reveal your talks with Mr Pastorino, the [U.S. embassy] charge d'affaires at...

[Azcona, interrupting] Well, I guess we can talk about that. He came to tell me that Mr Briggs has already been appointed and wanted to thank me because we had given our approval quickly. He will attend a public hearing at the U.S. Senate next week so that his appointment may be confirmed. I believe the White House will report it today, and Ambassador Ferch will come tomorrow. He will remain here until the 29th as U.S. ambassador because he is still the U.S. ambassador to Honduras. That is the type of information that Mr Pastorino gave me.

[Question] What is your view about the report that 15,000 SECOPT workers will declare a strike on Monday?

[Azcona] Why will they declare a strike?

[Reporter] They will demand the dismissal of...

[Azcona, interrupting] I will not dismiss the maintenance director general because he is a hard-working man. Even if the workers demand the dismissal of an official, I will not do it.

U.S. 'PRESSURE' ON CONTRA TRAINING NOTED

PA201937 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1440 GMT 20 Sep 86

[By Franco Rojas]

[Excerpts] Panama City, 20 Sep (ACAN-EFE headquarters) -- Robert Pastorino, in charge of the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa, has revealed that the U.S. Government is cooperating with the Honduran Air Force so that it may have a position of superiority in Central America. [passage omitted]

The Honduran Air Force initiated a modernization phase this past Tuesday when it put into operation a squad of combat helicopters of the Bell-415 type. Honduras has bought 10 of these helicopters from the United States at a cost of $30 million, which will be taken from the $88 million in military assistance the United States approved for Honduras this year.

With the arrival of these aircraft, Honduras now has a fleet of 36 which increases its capabilities for mobilizing infantry troops to difficult-to-reach areas, according to military sources.

The U.S. Government also plans to provide modern combat jets to the Honduran Air Force, which already has aircraft of the A-37, Supermistere, Tucano, and C-101 types, of U.S., French-Israeli, Brazilian, and Spanish make, respectively. [passage omitted]

Diplomatic sources very close to the government of Jose Azcona Hoyo and the U.S. Embassy in Tegucigalpa have confirmed to ACAN-EFE that the pressure being exerted by the Reagan administration on the Honduran Government so that the latter will allow the training of contras on its territory increased last week, thus coinciding with the U.S. aid for Honduras.

The sources said: "Now the pressure is diplomatic and military, and it is possible that it will increase in the next few weeks when it is decided how the $100 million for the anti-Sandinist rebels will be distributed." [passage omitted]

NICARAGUA

BISHOP VEGA SPEAKS OUT AGAINST SANDINIST REGIME

PA192345 Paris AFP in Spanish 2147 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Text] Bogota, 19 Sep (AFP) — Today, Nicaraguan Bishop Msgr Pablo Antonio Vega said in Bogota that civil war has reached his country, and that the people are defending themselves with their hands.

Vega, who was condemned by the Sandinist regime, said that the Nicaraguan people have a right to defend themselves from the totalitarian regime of Managua, but he pointed out that the church is not promoting the conflict.

Vega accused the regime of resorting to priests who have abandoned the pastoral ministry, as in the case of Father Ernesto Cardenal; or to foreign churches to influence [incriminar] the people, and to impose its Marxist will.

Vega said that Nicaragua is experiencing a worse situation than the one that existed during Anastasio Somoza's dictatorship, because today it is a totalitarian regime in which one has no right to give an opinion, since that right is obtained only through participation in, or the acceptance of the government.

Vega criticized the false image of the revolution, and he said that the commanders and members of the current administration have more power and wealth than those under Somoza's regime, becase we are now dealing with a political, prepotent class.

Vega added that the people are taking to arms in self-defence, in defense from the aggression, but that they remain mute.

Vega said that silence is the only opinion in Nicaragua, and he asserted that Sandinism no longer has the people's sympathy, and that there is a total distrust in the government's elite because of its attacks on human rights.

COMMUNIST PARTY 'UNSATISFIED' WITH DIALOGUE

PA222229 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1937 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Managua, 22 Sep (ACAN-EFE) — Leaders of the opposition Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCdeN] were unsatisfied with the meeting they held today with a representative of the FSLN, to discuss constitutional affairs and other matters concerning the national crisis.

PCdeN Secretary General Eli Altamirano told ACAN-EFE that he thinks the Sandinists reject a dialogue among all the political forces "for unexplainable reasons."

Altamirano headed his party's delegation, the fourth opposition political force in parliament, at a meeting with Major Rafael Solis, secretary of the National Assembly, who attended the meeting on behalf of Commander Carlos Nunez, president of the National Assembly.

This is the third meeting held by the FSLN with the parliamentary opposition parties; on 27 August the parties demanded a national dialogue to seek a solution to the crisis and the suspension of the constitutional debates.

The request was supported by the Democratic Conservative Party of Nicaragua, the Independent Liberal Party, the Nicaraguan Socialist party [PSN], the Communist Party of Nicaragua [PCdeN], and the Popular Social Christian Party [PPSC], all the parliamentary opposition except the Marxist-Leninist Popular Action Party which did not sign the document.

The FSLN met with PSN and PPSC representatives on Friday.

The PCdeN leader said that even though the Sandinists have accepted the bilateral dialogue, he believes they are trying to avoid the dialogue.

"We believe that the meeting was not a success; nevertheless, we achieved progress because the five political parties intend to find a solution to the tragedy in Nicaragua," the leader added.

Altamirano added: "We suggested that the five parties' document must be taken into consideration to solve the problems of the war, economic crisis, and hostilities against the [words indistinct].

Eli Altamirano said that the FSLN must give up that policy of "hostility and division" against the opposition parties to reach a consensus to solve the crisis.

He explained that during the 4-hour meeting with the Sandinist representative he had stated that the Communist leaders want to discuss some 30 articles of the draft constitution to attain a political consensus, which would help in the drafting of a magna carta with all the group's support.

SALVADORAN FMLN-FDR LEADER ON FUTURE TALKS

PA211637 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Interview with Jorge Villacorta, member of the FMLN-FDR's Political-Diplomatic Commission, by (Hector Deagturo); date and place not given -- recorded]

[Text] [Villacorta] Yes. Yesterday, what we had repeatedly said was confirmed: That Duarte's government is giving the dialogue a theatrical nature and that it has offered a narrow margin to advance in seeking a sincere dialogue. The Salvadoran Armed Forces put a straitjacket on Duarte's government. Even [Culture and Communications Minister Julio Adolfo] Rey Prendes admitted this privately in Panama City. This straitjacket was the militarization of Sesori and its intransigent attitude toward granting the minimum political and security conditions for the dialogue by opposing a truce. I think [Defense Minister General Carlos Eugenio] Vides Casanova's speech, which he delivered yesterday at the circus-like show they mounted in Sesori, is eloquent: It shows the attitude of an arrogant Army that overestimates its military capabilities, that believes that a military victory is possible in a short-term basis, and that, therefore, believes they can defeat the FMLN. Hence, they have no real interest in moving forward toward a political resolution. Consequently, they are acting in accordance with the U.S. counterinsurgency plans.

[Deagturo] Villacorta, have you participated in two meetings held in preparation for the dialogue?

[Villacorta] Yes, that is correct. I participated in the talks in Mexico City, and now in Panama, also.

[Deagturo] So, in reality there was no dialogue, only a monologue by Duarte [words indistinct]...

[Villacorta, interrupting] There was progress in some aspects in both meetings. For example, in Panama City we advanced in an important aspect, which was the preparation of the agenda that would be discussed at the third dialogue meeting by the top-level delegations. The agenda is very important. The first point we agreed to discuss would be the peace proposals presented by each side. The second point to be discussed would be the mechanisms to advance on specific aspects in order to arrive at a political resolution, specifically concerning the humanization of the war and the participation of various sectors in the peace process. Third, we agreed to discuss the continuity of the dialogue, by seeking high-level and technical meetings, meetings inside the country and abroad, permanent or more continuous meetings, and so forth. That was practically the agenda for the Sesori meeting, provided it would be held. We believe that it is still in effect. This is an important aspect because, as you can see, it meets our main demands, and above all the popular demands, which are a desire to continue the dialogue and to advance in specific aspects concerning political mechanisms.

[Deagturo] Villacorta, then in view of the government's rupture of the dialogue with the guerrillas, what are the Salvadoran guerrillas' plans?

[Villacorta] We would like to tell the international community, and particularly the Salvadoran people, that what has been closed in Sesori are the possibilities of continuing with a showy, tactical, and propagandistic dialogue. There is no room for that anymore.

What has come forth and is current is a need for a political resolution, and the dialogue is an instrument to advance in the search for a realistic political resolution. Therefore, we believe that the talks must continue and that we must invite and incorporate the various social sectors in this effort. Look, we insist that the peace problem is not a problem of the FMLN-FDR alone. It is a problem which concerns all the people, the entire nation. It affects businessmen, workers, students, professionals, everyone. Consequently, what we need today is the firm and effective participation of the national political and social forces in demanding the continuity of the dialogue. However, we need a dialogue that will truly advance in seeking a political resolution in order to achieve peace. That is what we must do now. Social and political forces must play their role. We believe that that is what is important now.

FMLN OFFICIAL INTERVIEWED ON DIALOGUE, SUPPORT

PA201739 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 20 Sep 86

[Interview with Carlos Leon, member of the International Solidarity Commission of the FMLN, by Ramon Chon; no date or place given -- recorded]

[Text] [Chon] One most important aspect of the current Salvadoran situation is the uncertainty about the bilateral dialogue that had been scheduled for this Friday. For this reason, we are going to interview Carlos Leon, member of the International Solidarity Commission of the FMLN.

Carlos, I would like for you to tell us about this new maneuver, which we know is a product of U.S. imperialism, which is trying to obstruct the struggle of the Salvadoran people.

[Leon] U.S. imperialism and the Government of El Salvador and the Salvadoran Armed Forces -- which respond to U.S. economic and political interests -- are trying to sell, for propaganda reasons at the international level, the image of a solid government and a strong Armed Forces. This image would in turn give the impression that the FMLN is weak and enduring a disadvantageous situation.

But the true situation is completely different because the FMLN not only has been able to extend the war to the 14 departments of the country, it is also systematically hitting the Armed Forces, inflicting an average of between 500 and 600 casualties monthly, attacking strategic points of the regime -- there is the case of the attack on the 3d Infantry Brigade headquarters, which is the strongest in the country's east -- and halting transportation throughout the country whenever it wants.

Regarding the dialogue, it has been interrupted because of the government's intransigent position because that government wants to impose conditions in spite of the fact it is aware it does not have political or military force to impose such conditions.

It is internationally known that what sustains the Salvadoran Government is the economic, material, logistical, and training support from the U.S. Government. Without this support, the Salvadoran Government would not last long because the FMLN has enough strength to defeat it militarily.

[Chon] Meanwhile, the Salvadoran people continue gaining more international prestige and support.

[Leon] International solidarity allows the Salvadoran people to continue with their struggle because for its military struggle, the FMLN needs boots, food, arms, ammunition -- the logistics and infrastructure for the war -- and this is being secured through the militant solidarity of all the people of the world, especially from East European, Central American, and Caribbean countries.

[Chon] We thank Carlos Leon for the interview he has kindly granted to this radio station. Thank you.

HONDURAN GOVERNMENT SEEN AS 'PUPPET' OF U.S.

PA201611 Havana International Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 19 Sep 86

[Report read by Maruja Garcia]

[Text] There are reports that approximately 7,000 peasants have been forced to abandon their lands because of the ever growing presence of Nicaraguan counterrevolutionary camps. Although these reports were filed in Tegucigalpa this past Thursday and have been made before, they are still a source of alarm.

The displaced peasants are from the Honduran department of El Paraiso, a name that ironically appears suitable considering the facilities that Honduran President Jose Azcona has given to the bands financed by the United States' CIA.

The fact is that of El Paraiso -- at least this is the way its population sees it -- all that is left is its geographical name because that territory, in spite of all the repeated accusations, has become a huge military camp from which bands of Somozist mercenaries prepare and carry out activities against the Nicaraguan revolution, and this has been going on for a long time. Reports about the displacement of peasants from the area near the border with Nicaragua have again put the spotlight on the Azcona government's collaborationist attitude toward the U.S. Administration.

It is evident that the Honduran president is not the least concerned with Somozist mercenaries and their U.S. advisers undermining the health of Hondurans, corrupting young Hondurans, and stepping on Honduran national dignity by occupying a territory that does not belong to them and preparing bandit-like activities against a neighboring country.

Meanwhile, the Honduran Armed Forces are acquiring expensive war material and getting ready to become -- from a technological point of view -- the best ally of the United States in Central America. AFP recently reported that Honduras has acquired 10 helicopters at a cost of $30 million. The helicopters were provided by the United States in the framework of a military cooperation pact between the two nations.

While the Honduran Government spends millions of dollars on war materiel, Honduras' hospitals lack medicine and doctors have subsistence salaries.

Tolerance with abuse and collaboration with the main enemy of the Latin American people have turned the Honduran Government into a puppet of the United States in Central America.

HAVANA RADIO ON PLAN TO 'DESTROY' GUATEMALA'S GAM

PA211225 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Report by Jose Diaz]

[Text] The Mutual Support Group [GAM] is going through a difficult situation. The GAM is a humanitarian group that seeks to clarify the whereabouts of at least 1,300 people missing in Guatemala since 1972.

The GAM, a group that has been nominated for the Nobel prize, has certainly been a victim of all kinds of lies, abuses, and threats in its struggle to find the relatives of its members. Two of its members, including its former president, Rosario de Cuevas, were killed last year.

The GAM is now the object of pressure and threats, including death threats, as part of a campaign to destroy it because, especially at this moment, it is the highest flag of the Guatemalan people's vindication struggle. Among the pressures is the bribery proposed by the wife of the president, Mrs Raquel Blandon de Cerezo, who offered money and food to the GAM leaders in the western Chimaltenango Department if they give up their struggle. Another case is the alleged appearance of a GAM faction that would be made up only of indigenous people, which the GAM leaders have blamed on the Guatemalan Army. Moreover, the Committee of Peasants Unity [CUC] has rejected the reported links of the CUC with the alleged GAM indigenous faction and charged the Army with being the promoter and producer of this dirty maneuver.

The Armed Forces, in its communique, stated that [GAM President] Ninete de Garcia or any other GAM member could have an accident. This information has been gathered by writers of the local newspapers, well-known by their links with the Army, including a writer who was ambassador to Mexico of the Romeo Lucas government. The former ambassador said in an article dedicated to the GAM president that in Guatemala, anyone is in danger of being beaten, being shot, or having a car accident.

Thus, everything seems to indicate that the plan to destroy the GAM is underway, promoted by the Guatemalan Army and the government, which are responsible for the forced disappearance of people, which not only has continued but has also increased, as have the murders and the number of corpses found in public places.

NEW RELAY TOWERS, TRANSMITTERS TO BEGIN OPERATING

FL180109 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Sep 86

[Text] The Communications Ministry is conducting a remarkable investment program in Guantanamo Province to eliminate silence zones in radio and television broadcasts and block foreign stations' interference. Next month, a new radio transmitter is expected to begin operating in Maisi for CMKS provincial station and power will be increased in Baracoa with new equipment to be used also by the Guantanamo Network.

In the areas called Santa Maria and Nibujon near Guantanamo City, which are silence zones in television transmissions, a TV signal relay tower will be installed. This will bring the citizens access to that modern life convenience. To continue providing this service to the Guantanamo countryside, four new relay towers will be installed in Sabaneta, El Salvador Municipality; Bernardo in Yateras, and Cantillo in Maisi in 1987.

There are also plans to install two transmitters for Radio Progreso and Rebelde in Guantanamo City and another one in San Antonio Del Sur for CMKS station, the anti-imperialist trench. About 35 percent of the most eastern province of the country is considered a zone of silence in radio or television transmissions. Work is being conducted to reduce it as much as possible.

The geographical location of municipalities such as Maisi, Baracoa, and Imias make them extremely vulnerable to foreign station interference, especially from the Caribbean.

MIRET NOTES IMPORTANCE OF MATANZAS POWER PLANT

FL221139 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] Politburo Member Pedro Miret Prieto has noted the importance that completing the thermo-electric power plant in northern Matanzas has for the national program of saving fuel.

Pedro Miret participated in a meeting held to assess the progress of the project, during which a 36-day delay in assembling the boiler was noted and measures were adopted to overcome it.

NEW AMBASSADOR TO USSR PRESENTS CREDENTIALS

FL172329 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet Andrey Gromyko today received Julio Camacho Aguilera, new Cuban ambassador to that European country, who presented his credentials.

Gromyko, Politburo member of the USSR Communist Party, underscored at a ceremony held in Moscow the deep friendship and fraternal ties existing between the two countries. Camacho Aguilera, Politburo member of the Communist Party of Cuba, stressed the Cuban support to the USSR peace proposals.

USSR PETROLEUM MINISTER ARRIVES ON WORKING VISIT

FL221821 Havana Television Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] USSR Petroleum Industry Minister Vasiliy Dinkov has arrived in our country on a working visit. His Ministry is responsible for cooperation with Cuba in drilling for oil, construction of oil pipelines [words indistinct], Boca de Jaruco, in addition to providing the necessary technical equipment for the drilling and protection of the environment.

The visit's objective is to observe the progress of cooperation in this field. In this manner, our country fulfills the economic and social guidelines for the purpose of extracting 2 million tons of oil by 1990.

PAYMENT PROTOCOL SIGNED WITH ALBANIA

FL171308 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Sep 86

[Text] Foreign Trade Ministers Ricardo Cabrisas and Shane Korbeci, from Cuba and the People's Socialist Republic of Albania, respectively, have signed a bilateral Trade and Payment Protocol for 1987.

The Cuban and Albanian ministers also signed a protocol on the general conditions of merchandise availability and expressed their satisfaction with the development of bilateral trade.

ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA

BIRD TO VISIT FRANCE ON MARTINIQUE BOUNDARIES

FL221615 Bridgetown CANA in English 1506 GMT 22 Sep 86

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Sep 22, CANA -- A government team has left for France to continue negotiations on maritime boundaries between Antigua and Barbuda and the neighbouring French island of Martinique. Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Lester Bird is leading the five-man delegation.

The first round of talks was held in Antigua last March and the next phase will be held in Paris Thursday and Friday. The delegation is stopping over in London for a meeting with a technical assistance group of the Commonwealth Secretariat. Other members on the delegation are Eric Challenger, permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Senator Ron Martin of the Ministry of Agriculture, legal advisor Claire Roberts, and Foreign Service Officer Colin Murdoch.

Meanwhile a Foreign Ministry statement said Bird will be meeting with his French counterpart during the visit to Paris. From the French Capital, Bird will travel to New York to attend a meeting of the Caribbean Community foreign ministers and address the UN General Assembly on October 1.

BARBADOS

BARROW ON DEFENSE FORCE; THANKS UK, U.S. FOR AID

FL221715 Bridgetown CANA in English 2304 GMT 20 Sep 86

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Text] Bridgetown, Barbados, Sep 20, CANA -- Prime Minister Errol Barrow tonight assured members of the estimated 1,800-member Barbados Defence Force (BDF) that their jobs were safe.

Speaking at his first review of BDF units since assuming office three months ago, Barrow said any major changes would involve mainly reorientation and emphasis rather than substantial reductions in the strength of the force. ...I should like to assure the members of the defence force that it is not the intention of this government to exacerbate the high level of unemployment which already exists by any wholesale retrenchment in the force itself, Barrow, who is defence minister, said.

Barrow's anti-militarist stance and criticism of defence expenditures by the previous government had fuelled speculation that a major cutback in BDF personnel was likely. Earlier comments suggested he would prefer a force of about 300. The former World War Two Royal Air Force pilot indicated there would be an indepth review of the structure of the force by the defence board, the body which oversees the management of the force. Army Chief of Staff Brigadier General Lewis, giving a vote of thanks afterwards, said Barrow's address had raised our morale.

The BDF, comprising an Army, Marine and Air divisions, was set up in 1979 by an act of parliament under the former Barbados Labour Party (BLP) administration, which was swept out of office last May 28. Barrow said government felt the defence force had a vital role to play in maintaining the sovereignty and security of this island. He also cited the force's community role, mentioning its sponsorship of a children's summer camp.

Referring to the seven-nation Regional Security System (RSS) of which the BDF is an integral part, he reiterated the new government's position that it sees no need at this time for the memorandum of understanding between the seven participating countries to be upgraded into a treaty. Although we appreciate that a treaty would facilitate the granting of certain types of assistance by other states outside of the region to the Regional Security System, I do not consider that the absence of a treaty should be regarded as any great obstacle to the flow of the right kind of aid, he said. The absence of a treaty certainly does not lessen the effectiveness of the system, given the will on the part of the member states to respect their obligations. He continued: We in Barbados will continue to regard and look upon the system as a means of furthering regional cooperation in order to protect the integrity of its members.

The activities to which the highest priority in terms of active cooperation will be given concern the control of illegal trading in drugs, prevention of smuggling, the protection of the fisheries resources of our territorial waters, and maritime training. The RSS, based here at BDF headquarters, was set up in 1982. It involves Barbados, St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, Antigua and Barbuda, St Kitts and Nevis, Grenada, and Dominica. Barrow said his government was grateful for the training and other assistance provided and promised by Britain and the United States to the RSS. We will cooperate fully with those governments in ensuring that the region benefits from this assistance, he said. He had special praise for Canada for the help it has given the region in maritime training over the years.

GRENADA

ALEXIS WARNS AGAINST DESTABILIZING GOVERNMENT

FL221023 Bridgetown CANA in English 2024 GMT 21 Sep 86

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Sep 21, CANA -- Grenada's Labour Minister Dr Francis Alexis has warned the government's political opponents that the majority of Grenadians would move to counter any attempts to destabilise the island. The warning was targeted at supporters of former prime minister Sir Eric Gairy and of the leftist New Jewel Movement, which toppled his rightwing administration in a 1979 coup.

Addressing a government public meeting in the St Georges north-east constituency, Alexis said the people were ready to deal with Gairy and the leftist politicians if they attempted to return the island to the political disturbances which gripped the island during the early 1970's under Gairy and again in 1983 under his leftist successors.

We have come out of that and by God we ain't going back in that at all. We ain't going back and any Mickey Mouse (who) believes that they going to come and take this country back to those grim days they have a next thought coming, he added. It ain't going to be what it used to be again. We have tasted freedom and we ain't giving up that freedom again. We know now what it's like to be free. Thank God we are free for the first time and we ain't giving that up, he added.

JAMAICA

MANLEY, PNP WILL NOT WAIT 2 YEARS FOR ELECTIONS

FL221636 Bridgetown CANA in English 1606 GMT 22 Sep 86

[By Paget de Freitas]

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Sep 22, CANA -- Jamaica's opposition People's National Party (PNP) says it is not prepared to wait another two years for a general election.

PNP leader Michael Manley told the party's annual conference that a failure in current negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) would require a mandate from the people before the government could implement its so-called contingency plan. We will not agree to the one-party parliament serving out two years ...We will not agree to (Prime Minister Edward) Seaga serving out two years, the PNP leader told the closing public session of the conference last night.

The three-day conference was held six weeks after the PNP's decisive victory in municipal elections it had promoted as a confidence vote on the Seaga administration. The municipal poll was the first real electoral contest between the PNP and Seaga's JLP since the 1980 general election. An early poll three years later was boycotted by the PNP because electoral reform had not been completed.

Seaga recently told a foreign journalist of his intention to maintain power until his constitutional term expires at the end of 1988. I am not goig to hand it (power) over, Seaga was quoted as saying. We expect the next two years to turn around the countrys decision that it made in the last local elections.

The need for an early national poll was a recurring theme among PNP conference delegates, but there was no precise declaration on how the PNP would force Seaga to the poll ahead of the constitutional time. Manley said his party would not resort to violence or seek to undermine the constitution, but would not accept delaying tactics, citing as such a commission of inquiry into malpractices during the July vote and any major enumeration of voters. The electoral committee had diagnosed the problems with the electoral system, which the government already knew, Manley said, and following a major registration exercise early this year, all that was needed was to constantly upgrade the voters' register as required by law.

We are sensitive to the economic situation of Jamaica, but they must not believe that our sense of responsibility and our sensitivity to the country is going to lead us to do nothing when the time comes, the PNP leader declared. Seaga has previously said he doubted whether the PNP would want to cause any disruption that would further aggravate Jamaica's economic problems.

On Seaga's quarrel with the IMF over a new agreement, Manley said that failure to conclude a package would remove from the government their last claim to legitimacy in the eyes of the Jamaican people. The major stumbling block to an agreement is the Fund's insistence of an immediate devaluation of the Jamaican dollar by a further 10 percent. He reminded that Seaga had come to power on the basis of pushing through IMF programmes, which had failed leaving a wreckage of the Jamican economy. Declared Manley: If they do not reach an agreement with the IMF we will not accept their continuing as the government of Jamaica. Breaking with the Fund would require a future of mobilisation and sacrifice to build, Manley said. Only one political movement has the capacity to lead Jamaica on that path and that is the People's National Party, he said.